

REMARKS:

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to because of informalities. An amended abstract is submitted herewith.

The disclosure was objected to because of the use of British spellings. The Applicants request that the Office reconsider this objection. As stated at MPEP 608.01:

Examiners should not object to the specification and/or claims in patent applications merely because applicants are using British English spellings (e.g., colour) rather than American English spellings. It is not necessary to replace the British English spellings with the equivalent American English spellings in the U.S. patent applications. Note that 37 CFR 1.52(b)(1)(ii) only requires the application to be in the English language. There is no additional requirement that the English must be American English.

Applicants thank the Office for acknowledging that claim 1 is allowable. Nonetheless, applicants have narrowed the scope of claim 1 in accordance with an agreement with a third party to align this claim set with its European counterpart. Claim 1 is allowable for at least the reasons provided earlier, and support for this amendment may be found especially on page 7. No new matter has been added, and no file history estoppel should arise.

Claims 2-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Brony, U.S. Patent No. 5,620,434. Claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 3-12 depend from claim 1, and therefore incorporate each of the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, because claim 1 is patentable, claims 3-12 are patentable as well.

In view of the above, all objections and rejections have been sufficiently addressed. Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and requests that this application pass to issue.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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